Amendments to the claims:

Please cancel claims 3-4, 6, 8, 10, 13-14, 21-22, 24-26 and 30-31 without prejudice to their renewal in a related patent application.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a fusion polypeptide, wherein the fusion polypeptide comprises:
- (a) one or more domains which comprise a cellular co-receptor protein, or a fragment, derivative or functional equivalent thereof (CCR);
- (b) one or more domains which comprise a cellular receptor protein, or a fragment, derivative, or functional equivalent thereof (CR); and optionally
 - (c) a fusion component (FC), and
 - (d) one or more domains of a viral protein, or a fragment or derivative thereof (VP).
- 2. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein CCR is one or more protein(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) human CCR5, or a fragment, derivative or functional equivalent thereof, (ii) human CXCR4, or a fragment, derivative or functional equivalent thereof, and (iii) a lectin-binding receptor.
- 3-4. (canceled).
- 5. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein CR is one or more protein(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) human CD4, or a fragment, derivative or functional equivalent thereof, and (ii) a lectin-binding receptor.
- 6. (canceled)
- 7. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein the human CD4 fragment comprises Ig-like domain 1, or a fragment or derivative thereof capable of binding gp120.

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- 8. (canceled)
- 9. (currently amended)The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein FC is an <u>immunoglobulin-derived domain-selected from the group consisting of a multimerizing component, fusion partner, a targeting protein, a serum protein, or a molecule capable of binding a serum protein.</u>
- 10. (canceled)
- 11. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 49 9, wherein the immunoglobulin-derived domain is selected from the group consisting of the Fc domain of IgG, and the heavy chain of IgG, and the light chain of IgG.
- 12. (original) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 11, wherein the Fc domain of IgG is human Fc∆1(a).
- 13-14. (canceled)
- 15. (original) A fusion polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid of claim 1.
- 16. (original) The fusion polypeptide of claim 15, selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-9.
- 17. (original) A method of producing a fusion protein, comprising culturing a host cell transfected with a vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1, under conditions suitable for expression of the protein from the host cell, and recovering the fusion protein so produced.
- 18. (original) The fusion polypeptide of claim 15 which is a dimer.
- 19. (currently amended) A fusion polypeptide, comprising:

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- (a) one or more domains which comprise a cellular co-receptor protein, or a fragment, derivative or functional equivalent thereof (CCR);
- (b) one or more domains which comprise a cellular receptor protein, or a fragment, derivative, or functional equivalent thereof (CR); and optionally
 - (c) a fusion component (FC), and
 - (d) one or more domains of a viral protein, or a fragment or derivative thereof (VP).
- 20. (currently amended) The fusion polypeptide of claim 19, wherein CCR is one or more protein(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) human CCR5, or a fragment, derivative-or functional equivalent thereof, (ii) human CXCR4, or a fragment, derivative-or functional equivalent thereof, and (iii) a lectin-binding receptor.

21-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The fusion polypeptide of claim 19, wherein CR is one or more protein(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) human CD4, or a fragment, derivative or functional equivalent thereof, and (ii) a lectin-binding receptor.

24-26. (canceled)

- 27. (currently amended) The fusion polypeptide of claim 19, wherein FC is selected from the group consisting of a multimerizing component, fusion partner, a targeting protein, a serum protein, or a molecule capable of binding a serum protein.
- 28. (original) An HIV-specific protein capable of binding an HIV viral particle and/or blocking the ability of an HIV viral particle to infect a cell comprising two of the fusion proteins of claim 19.
- 29. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the HIV-specific fusion protein of claim 28 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30-31. (canceled)